

## WIG

- Cherish thy hasten'd *widowhood* with the gold  
Of matrimonial treason: so farewell.  
2. Estate settled on a widow. Not in use.  
For that dowry, I'll assure her of  
Her *widowhood*, be it that she survives me,  
In all my lands. *Shaksp. Taming of the Shrew.*  
*WIDOWHUNTER*. *n. f.* [*widw* and *hunter*.] One who courts  
widows for a jointure.  
The *widowhunters* about town often afford them great di-  
vision. *Addison's Spectator.*  
*WIDOWMAKER*. *n. f.* [*widow* and *maker*.] One who deprives  
women of their husbands.  
It grieves my soul  
That I must draw this metal from my side  
To be a *widowmaker*. *Shaksp. King John.*  
*WIDOW-WAIL*. *n. f.* [*widow* and *wail*.] A plant.  
It hath a flower consisting of one leaf, which is deeply di-  
vided into three parts: the cup of the flower is also of one  
leaf, divided into three segments; the fruit consists of three  
hard berries closely joined together; in each of which is con-  
tained one oblong seed; to which may be added, it hath the  
appearance of a shrub, and the leaves are small and oblong.  
*Miller.*  
*WIDTH*. *n. f.* [*from wide*.] Breadth; wideness. A low word.  
For the *width* of the mortice gage this side, then for the  
tenant, gage on that end of the quarter you intend the tenant  
shall be made. *Moxon.*  
Let thy vines in intervals be set,  
Indulge their *width*, and add a roomy space,  
That their extreme lines may scarce embrace. *Dryden.*  
To *WIELD*. *v. a.* [*pealban*, Saxon; to manage in the hand.]  
To use with full command, as a thing not too heavy for the  
holder.  
Bale Hungarian wight, wilt thou the spigot *wield*. *Shaksp.*  
His looks are full of peaceful majesty,  
His head by nature fram'd to wear a crown,  
His hand to *wield* a scepter, and himself  
Likely in time to bless a regal throne. *Shaksp.*  
There is that hand bolden'd to blood and war,  
That must the sword in wondrous actions *wield*. *Daniel.*  
They are in the dark before they are aware; and then they  
make a noise only with terms; which, like too heavy weapons  
that they cannot *wield*, carry their strokes beyond their  
aim. *Digby on Bodies.*  
The least of whom could *wield*  
These elements, and arm him with the force  
Of all their regions. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
Part *wield* their arms, part curb the foaming steed. *Milton.*  
If Rome's great senate could not *wield* that sword,  
What hope had ours, while yet their power was new,  
To rule victorious armies, but by you? *Waller.*  
He worthiest, after him, his sword to *wield*,  
Or wear his armour, or sustain his shield. *Dryden.*  
*WIELDY*. *adj.* [*from wield*.] Manageable.  
*WIER*. *adj.* [*from wire*.]  
1. Made of wire: it were better written *wiry*.  
Your gown going off, such beauteous state reveals,  
As when through flow'ry meads th' hill's shadow steals;  
Off with that *wiry* coronet, and shew  
The hairy diadem which on your head doth grow. *Dante.*  
2. Drawn into wire.  
Polymnia shall be drawn with her hair hanging loose about  
her shoulders, resembling *wiry* gold. *Peacock on Drawing.*  
3. [*From wær*, a pool.] Wet; wearish; moist. Obsolete.  
Where but by chance a silver drop hath fall'n,  
E'en to that drop ten thousand *wiry* friends  
Do glew themselves in sociable grief. *Shaksp.*  
*WIFE*. *n. f.* Plural *wives* [*wif*, Saxon; *wif*, Dutch.]  
A woman that has a husband.  
Your claim, fair sister,  
I bar it in the interest of my *wife*. *Shaksp.*  
There's no bottom, none  
In my voluptuousness: your *wives*, your daughters,  
Your matrons, your maids could not fill up  
The cistern of my lust. *Shaksp.*  
Why saidst thou, she is my sister? so I might have taken  
her to me to *wife*. *Gen. xii. 19.*  
The *wife*, where danger or dishonour lurks,  
Safest and seemliest by her husband stays.  
The *wife* her husband murders, he the *wife*. *Dryden.*  
Fond of his friend, and civil to his *wife*. *Pope.*  
2. It is used for a woman of low employment.  
Strawberry *wives* lay two or three great strawberries at the  
mouth of their pot, and all the rest are little ones. *Bacon.*  
*WIG*. *n. f.* *Wig* being a termination in the names of men signifies  
war, or else a hero, from *wiga*, a word of that signification.  
*Gibson's Camden.*  
*WIG*. *n. f.* [*Contracted from perwig*.]  
1. False hair worn on the head.  
Triumphing Tories and depending Whigs  
Forget their feuds, and join to save their *wigs*. *Swift.*

## WIL

2. A sort of cake.  
*WIGHT*. *n. f.* [*phiz*, Saxon.] A person; a being. *Obsolete.*  
Bethrew the witch! with venomous *wights* the flays,  
Tediuous as hell; but flies the grasp of love,  
Which wings more momentary swift than thought. *Shaksp.*  
Which would below did need one *wight*.  
Which might thereof distinguish ev'ry part. *Daniel.*  
This meiter *wights*, of trust and credit bare,  
Not so respected, could not look effect. *Daniel.*  
A *wight* he was, w'ose very light would  
Entitle him mirror of knight-hood. *Hudibras.*  
The water flies all taste of living *wights*. *Milton.*  
How could'st thou suffer thy devoted knight,  
On thy own day, to fall by foe oppress'd?  
The *wight* of all the world who lov'd thee best. *Dryden.*  
His station he yielded up to a *wight* as disagreeable as him-  
self. *Addison's Guardian.*  
*WIGHTLY*. *adj.* Swift; nimble. Out of use.  
He was so wimble and so *wightly*.  
From bough to bough he leaped lightly,  
And oft the pumies latched. *Spenser's Pastoral.*  
*WIGHTLY*. *adv.* [*from wight*.] Swiftly; nimbly.  
Her was her, while it was day-light,  
But now her is a most wretched wight;  
For day that was *wightly* past,  
And now at last the night doth halt. *Spenser.*  
*WILT*. An initial in the names of men, signifies strong; nimble;  
lusty; being purely Saxon.  
*WILD*. *adj.* [*phiz*, Saxon; *wild*, Dutch.]  
1. Not tame; not domestic.  
For I am he am born to tame you, Kate,  
And bring you from a *wild* cat to a kate,  
Conformable as other household kates. *Shaksp.*  
Winter's not gone yet, if the *wild* geese fly that way. *Shaksp.*  
All beasts of the earth since *wild*. *Milton.*  
2. Propagated by nature; not cultivated.  
Whatever will make a *wild* tree a garden tree, will make  
a garden tree to have less core or stone. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
Goose grafs or *wild* tansy is a weed that strong clays are ve-  
ry subject to. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
The *wild* bee breeds in the flocks of old willows, in which  
they first bore a canal, and furnish afterwards with hangings,  
made of rose leaves: and to finish their work divide the whole  
into several rooms or nests. *Grew's Myriophyllum.*  
3. Defart; uninhabited.  
The *wild* bench where he wons in forest *wild*. *Milton.*  
4. Savage; uncivilized.  
Affairs that walk,  
As they say spirits do, at midnight, have  
In them a *wilder* nature, than the business  
That seeks dispatch by day. *Shaksp.*  
Though the inundation destroyed man and beast generally,  
yet some few *wild* inhabitants of the woods escaped. *Bacon.*  
When they might not converse with any civil men without  
peril of their lives, whether should they fly but into the woods  
and mountains, and there live in a *wild* and barbarous man-  
ner. *Daniel.*  
May those already curst Essexian plains,  
Where hasty death and pining sickness reigns,  
Prove as a desert, and none there make stay,  
But savage beasts, or men as *wild* as they. *Waller.*  
5. Turbulent; tempestuous; irregular.  
His passions and his virtues lie confus'd,  
And mixt together in so *wild* a tumult,  
That the whole man is quite disfigur'd in him. *Addison.*  
6. Licentious; ungoverned.  
That *wild* rout that tore the Thracian bard,  
Valour grown *wild* by pride, and pow'r by rage,  
Did the true charms of majesty impair:  
Rome by degrees advancing more in age,  
Show'd sad remains of what had once been fair. *Prior.*  
7. Inconstant; mutable; fickle.  
In the ruling passion, there alone,  
The *wild* are constant, and the cunning known. *Pope.*  
8. Inordinate; loose.  
Other bars he lays before me,  
My riots past, my *wild* societies.  
Besides, thou art a beau; what's that my child?  
A fop well-drest, extravagant and *wild*.  
She that cries herbs has less impertinence,  
And in her calling, more of common sense. *Dryden.*  
9. Uncouth; strange.  
What are these,  
So wither'd, and so *wild* in their attire,  
That look not like th' inhabitants o' the earth,  
And yet are on't. *Shaksp.*  
10. Done or made without any consistent order or plan.  
With mountains, as with weapons, arm'd; they make  
*Wild* work in heav'n. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
The sea was very necessary to the ends of providence, and  
would have been a very *wild* world had it been without.  
*Woodward's Natural History.*  
11. Meerly

## WIN

11. Meerly imaginary.  
As universal as these appear to be, an effectual remedy might  
be applied: I am not at present upon a *wild* speculative pro-  
ject, but such a one as may be easily put in execution. *Swift.*  
*WILD*. *n. f.* [*from the adjective*.] A defart; a tract unculti-  
vated and uninhabited.  
We sometimes  
Who dwell this *wild*, constrain'd by want come forth  
To town or village nigh. *Milton's Paradise Regained.*  
This gentle knight  
Forsook his easy couch at early day,  
And to the wood and *wilds* pursu'd his way. *Dryden.*  
Then Libya first, of all her moisture drain'd,  
Became a barren waste, a *wild* of sand. *Addison.*  
Is there a nation in the *wilds* of Afric,  
Amidst the barren rocks and burning sands  
That does not tremble at the Roman name? *Addison.*  
You rais'd these hollow'd walls; the defart smil'd,  
And paradise was open'd in the *wild*. *Pope.*  
*WILD BASS*. *n. f.* [*basium*, Lat.] A plant.  
It hath leaves like those of the lesser basil; the cup of the  
flower is oblong and furrowed; the flowers are produced in  
bunches on the top of little footstalks, which arise from be-  
tween the footstalk of the leaf and the stalk of the plants in  
which it differs from serpyllum. *Miller.*  
*WILD CUCUMBER*. *n. f.* [*elaeagnus*, Latin.] A plant.  
The branches are somewhat like those of the cucumber, but  
have no tendrils; the fruit is prickly, and when ripe bursts  
with great elasticity, and abounds with fetid juice. *Miller.*  
*WILD OLIVE*. *n. f.* [*olea*, Latin, from *olea*, an olive, and  
*vitex*; vitex.] This plant hath leaves like those of the chaste  
tree, and a fruit like an olive. *Miller.*  
*WILDSERVICE*. *n. f.* [*crataegus*, Lat.] A plant.  
The leaves are hingle; the flower consists of five leaves,  
which expand in form of a rose. The fruit is small, and  
shaped like a pear, in which are many hard seeds. *Miller.*  
To *WILDER*. *v. a.* [*from wild*.] To loose or puzzle in an  
unknown or pathless tract.  
The little courtiers, who ne'er come to know  
The depth of fashions, as in mazes go,  
Where interests meet, and cross so oft, that they  
With too much care are *wilder'd* in the way. *Dryden.*  
Oh thou! who free'st me from my doubtful state,  
Long lost and *wilder'd* in the maze of fate,  
Be present still. *Pope.*  
*WILDERNESS*. *n. f.* [*from wild*.]  
1. A desert; a tract of solitude and savageness.  
He travell'd through wide wasteful ground,  
That sought but desert *wilderness* shew'd all around. *F. Qu.*  
When as the land the faw no more appear,  
But a *wild wilderness* of waters deep,  
Then 'gan the greatly to lament and weep. *Spenser.*  
O my poor kingdom, sick with civil blows!  
When that my care could not with-hold thy riots,  
What wilt thou do when riot is thy care?  
O, thou wilt be a *wilderness* again,  
Peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants. *Shaksp.*  
But who can always on the billows lie?  
The wat'ry *wilderness* yields no supply. *Waller.*  
All those animals have been obliged to change their woods  
and *wildernesses* for lodgings in cities. *Arbut. & Pope.*  
2. The state of being wild or disorderly. Not in use.  
The paths and bow'rs, doubt not, but our joint hands  
Will keep from *wilderness* with ease. *Milton.*  
*WILDFIRE*. *n. f.* [*wild* and *fire*.] A composition of inflam-  
mable materials, easy to take fire, and hard to be extin-  
guished.  
When thou ranst up Gadhill in the night to catch my  
horse, I did think thou hadst been an ignis fatuus, or a ball  
of *wildfire*. *Shaksp.*  
Though brimstone, pitch, *wildfire*, burn equally, and are  
hard to quench, yet they make no such fire wind as gun-  
powder. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
Yet shall it in his boiling stomach turn  
To bitter poison, and like *wildfire* burn;  
He shall cast up the wealth by him devour'd.  
No matter in the world so proper to write with as *wildfire*,  
as no characters can be more legible than those which are read  
by their own light. *Addison's Guardian.*  
In flames, like Semele's, be brought to bed,  
While opening hell spouts *wildfire* at your head. *Pope.*  
*WILDOOSECHASE*. *n. f.* A pursuit of something as unlikely  
to be caught as the wildgoose.  
If our wits run the *wildgoosechase*, I have done; for thou  
hast more of the *wildgoose* in one of thy wits, than I have in  
my whole five. *Shaksp.*  
Let a man consider the time, money, and vexation, that  
this *wildgoosechase* has cost him, and then say what have I  
gotten to answer all this expence, but loose, giddy frolic?  
*L'Estrange.*  
*WILDLING*. *n. f.* [*wildlinghe*, Dut.] A wild four apple.

## WIN

- Ten ruddy *wildings* in the wood I found,  
And stood on tip-toes, reaching from the ground. *Dryd.*  
The red streak, of all cyder fruit, hath obtained the pre-  
ference, being but a kind of *wilding*, never pleasing to the  
palate. *Mortimer.*  
The *wilding's* fibres are contriv'd  
To draw th' earth's purest spirit, and resist  
Its feculence. *Phillips.*  
*WILDLY*. *adv.* [*from wild*.]  
1. Without cultivation.  
That which grows *wildly* of itself, is worth nothing. *More.*  
2. With disorder; with perturbation or distraction.  
Put your discourse into some frame, and start not so *wildly*  
from my affair. *Shaksp.*  
Mrs. Page, at the door, sweating, blowing, and looking  
*wildly*, would needs speak with you. *Shaksp.*  
Young mothers *wildly* stare with fear oppress'd,  
And strain their helpless infants to their breast. *Dryden.*  
His fever being come to a height, he grew delirious, and  
talked very *wildly*. *Female Quixote.*  
3. Without attention; without judgment.  
As th' unthought accident is guilty  
Of what we *wildly* do, so we profess  
Ourselves to be the slaves of chance, and flies  
Of every wind that blows. *Shaksp.*  
4. Irregularly.  
She, *wildly* wanton, wears by night away  
The sign of all our labours done by day. *Dryden.*  
*WILDSNESS*. *n. f.* [*from wild*.]  
1. Rudeness; disorder like that of uncultivated ground.  
The heath, which was the third part of our plot, I wish to  
be framed, as much as may be, to a natural *wildness*. *Bac.*  
2. Inordinate vivacity; irregularity of manners.  
This fame starved justice hath done nothing but prated to  
me of the *wildness* of his youth, and the feats he hath done  
about Turnball street; and every third word a lie. *Shaksp.*  
He is giv'n  
To sports, to *wildness*, and much company. *Shaksp.*  
3. Savageness; brutality.  
He came in like a wild man; but such a *wildness* as shew'd  
his eye-sight had tamed him, full of withered leaves; which  
though they fell not, still threatened falling. *Sidney.*  
Vainly thou tell'st me, what the woman's care  
Shall in the *wildness* of the wood prepare. *Prior.*  
4. Uncultivated state.  
Their *wildness* lose, and quitting nature's part,  
Obey the rules and discipline of art. *Dryden.*  
5. Deviation from a settled course; irregularity.  
A delirium is but a short *wildness* of the imagination; and  
a settled irregularity of fancy is distraction and madness. *Watts's Log.*  
6. Alienation of mind.  
Ophelia, I wish  
That your good beauties be the happy cause  
Of Hamlet's *wildness*; so shall I hope your virtues  
May bring him to his wonted way again. *Shaksp.*  
*WILE*. *n. f.* [*pile*, Saxon; *wiel*, Islandick.] A deceit; a  
fraud; a trick; a stratagem; a practice artful, sly, and infi-  
dious.  
Their leader by his *wiles* had much obtain'd,  
And done much mischief on the English state. *Daniel.*  
My sentence is for open war; of *wiles*  
More unexpert, I boast not; them let those  
Contrive who need. *Milton.*  
Life elus'd the surest *wile*,  
Gilding itself with Laura's smile. *Roscommon.*  
So Sforza, curs'd with a too fertile brain,  
Lost by his *wiles* the pow'r his wit did gain. *Dryd.*  
The heart of man is so full of *wiles*, artifices, and deceit,  
that there is no guessing at what he is from his speeches. *Addison's Guardian.*  
Widom's above suspecting *wiles*,  
The queen of learning gravely smiles. *Swift.*  
*WILFUL*. *adj.* [*will* and *full*.]  
1. Stubborn; contumacious; perverse; inflexible.  
2. Done or suffered by design.  
Sthenobea herself did choak  
With *wilful* cord, for wanting of her will. *Fairy Queen.*  
Thou to me  
Art all things under heav'n, all places thou,  
Who for my *wilful* crime art banish'd hence. *Milton.*  
The silent stranger stood amaz'd to see  
Contempt of wealth, and *wilful* poverty. *Dryden.*  
*WILFULLY*. *adv.* [*from wilful*.]  
1. Obstinate; stubbornly.  
The mother, who being determinately, least I should say  
of a great lady *wilfully*, bent to marry her to Demagoras,  
tried all ways which a witty and hard-hearted mother could  
devise. *Sidney.*  
Evil could she conceal her fire, and *wilfully* persevered  
in it. *Sidney.*